

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/059 W

----- 011957

O 210700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7828

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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USIAC

FOR XOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

STATE FOR NEA/PAB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO: N/A

SUBJ: FOREIGN PRESS ARRIVES DACCA - SITREP

1. FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS ARRIVED DACCA AUGUST 20: LEWIS SIMONS, WASHINGTON POST; KATE WEBB, UPI; ALAM BRADFORD, ABC; ARNOLD ZEITLIN, AP; BILL TOUHY, LA TIMES; RICHARD THRELKELD, CBS; RONALD MOREAU, NEWSWEEK; MARCUS FRANDA, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FIELD STAFF. RUETERS, BBC, CBC, DAILY TELEGRAPH, LONDON TIMES, AFP, AND LEMONDE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO FLEW IN, PLUS ONE IRANIAN AND TWO JAPANESE REPORTERS. ALL CONVERGED AT INERCONTINENTAL.

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2. EARLIER SAME DAY APPROPRIATE BDG AUTHORITIES WERE NOTIFIED

BY USIS OF IMMINENT ARRIVAL THIS LARGE AND FIRST BATCH OF JOURNALISTS AND ADVISABILITY OF PROMPT MEASURES BEING INITIATED TO ORGANIZE AND HANDLE THE INFLUX. A.T.M. SHAMSUL HUQ, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WAS LATER DESIGNATED AS THE BDG SPOKESMAN AND CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE FOREIGN NEWSMEN. S.N. HASHIM, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT, WAS ALSO TO BE INVOLVED ON BEHALF OF FOREIGNMINISTRY. ABOUT 2200 THAT EVENING BRADFORD OF ABC CALLED PAO TO ADVISE THAT A POLICE OFFICER HAD NOTIFIED THE JOURNALISTS THEY WERE QUARANTINED AT THE HOTEL AND WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM BD ON THE FIRST FLIGHT OUT OF THE COUNTRY THE NEXT MORNING. THIS MEANT THE 0715 BANGLADESH BIMAN FLIGHT TO LONDON, FIRST STOP BAHREIN.

3. HERewith SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THEREAFTER:

AUG 20 - 2205: AMBASSADOR NOTIFIED.

2215: FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED ADVISED OF SITUATION AND STRONGEST OBJECTIONS TO EXPLUSION PUT FORTH. HE AGREED TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH QTE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES UNQTE AND REPLY ASAP.

2320: AMIRUL ISLAM, DIRECTOR, SOUTHEAST ASIA, PACIFIC AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TELEPHONED PAO WITH REPLY FROM SECRETARY AHMED TO BE RELAYED TO AMBASSADOR. THRUST OF MESSAGE WAS THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE. AGAIN, STRONGEST POSSIBLE PROTEST REGISTERED.

2330: AMBASSADOR AND PAO DROVE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR PERSONAL CONSULTATION WITH SECREATRY. SINCE HE HAD DEPARTED BY TIME OF OUR ARRIVAL, AMBASSADOR CALLED AT HOME AND, AFTER STRESSING STRENUOUS CONCERN ABOUT RESULTS OF UNFAVORABLE PRESS REACTION AGAINST BDG INTERESTS, URGED MATTER TO BE TAKEN UP AT HIGHEST LEVELS. SECRETARY AGREED.

AUG 21 0015: AMBASSADOR AND PAO CALLED ON JOURNALIST GROUP WHOSE TEMPERs NOW RANGED FROM DEPRESSION TO ANGRY FRUSTRATION. WE AGREED AGAINST CONTINGENCY THAT OUR APPEAL WERE TURNED DOWN, TO ARRANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY/USIS BRIEFING OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS AT HOTEL BEFORE PLANE TIME.

0700: SECRETARY AHMED TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO SAY THAT DECISION HAD BEEN RECONSIDERED AND JOURNALISTS COULD REMAIN IN COUNTRY FOR QTE A COUPLE OF DAYS UNQTE.

0710: HASHIM, FOREIGN MINISTRY, INFORMS IO ALPERN OF SAME DECISION.

0715: JOURNALISTS ADVISED OF REPRIEVE. MEANWHILE  
COLIN HOATH, CBC REPORTER, AND ONE BBC  
CAMERAMAN HAD BOARDED BBIMAN LONDON  
FLIGHT ON OWN VOILITION. HOATH DISEMBARKED  
WHEN ADVISED OF CHANGE IN SITUATION BY EMB  
OFFICER. BBC MAN STAYED ABOARD. REMAINDER  
OF NEWSMEN HAD NOT LEFT HOTEL.  
0830: EMBASSY/USIS BRIEFING FOR AMERICAN PRESS  
HELD AT HOTEL.

4. SEPTELS WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. WE CAN PROBABLY  
ANTIICIPATE CENSORSHIP PROBLEM. HOATH OF CBC HAS ALREADY BEEN  
FACED WITH THIS AND HAS REQUESTED INTERVENTION OF CANADIAN HIGH  
COMMISSION.  
GRESHAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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